

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year, 1938.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS FOR
THE BOROUGH OF LYDD.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

The area of the Borough is 11,937 acres.

The Resident Population in Mid-1938, as estimated by the Registrar General was 2,947.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year 1938, according to the Rate Books was 864.

The Rateable Value was £13,304.

The sum represented by a penny rate was £53.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS.—	Legitimate	15	19	34
	Illegitimate	2	2	4
		—	—	—
		17	21	38

This gives a Birth Rate of 12.89 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.10.

Birth Rates for the past five years—

				Lydd	England & Wales
1934	...	...	...	16.28	14.80
1935	...	...	...	16.24	14.70
1936	...	...	...	12.90	14.80
1937	...	...	...	13.31	14.90
1938	...	...	...	12.89	15.10
				—	—
	Average	...	...	13.72	14.86

DEATHS Males—21 Females—15 Total—36

This gives a Death Rate of 12.21 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.6

Death Rates for the past five years—

					Lydd	England & Wales
1934	...	...	...	...	11.94	11.80
1935	...	...	...	...	9.95	11.70
1936	...	...	...	...	9.70	12.10
1937	...	...	...	...	9.45	12.40
1938	...	...	...	...	12.21	11.60
Average					10.62	11.92

Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 25.64

Deaths from puerperal causes per 1,000 live and still births, nil

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:— All infants per 1,000 live births—nil. Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births—nil. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births—nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—6. Deaths from Measles (all ages)—nil. Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—nil. Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)—nil.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality.

The conditions of occupation and environment are excellent:

There was no serious unemployment.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND SERVICES.

The Public Health Officers are the Medical Officer of Health, who is a part-time officer, and the Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Surveyor and Building Inspector and is a whole-time officer.

In June, Mr. N. J. Arney, who was your Sanitary Inspector, resigned, and you appointed Mr. John Topham in his stead and he commenced duties on 26th July.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

Dyphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free to any medical practitioner who considers its administration necessary or advisable. A small stock is kept and is obtainable from me at any time.

The Lydd, New Romney and District Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association have a modern and up-to-date Motor Ambulance which is available for use in the borough and the council subscribes towards its upkeep.

To meet with the requirements of the new Midwives Act, the Kent County Nursing Association has established a nurse in the borough, who carries out general district nursing as well as midwifery.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the borough which is held twice a month, but this service is under the County Medical Officer.

Public Assistance is administered in the borough by the County Council.

Complicated Maternity cases can be sent to one of the general hospitals and cases of Puerperal Fever would go to the Isolation Hospital at Folkestone.

You maintain your own Isolation Hospital and during the year only one case, Scarlet Fever, required to be removed to it.

Your arrangement with the Corporation of Hastings for the reception of cases of small pox is still in force.

WATER.

Complaints continue to be received about the water being over-chlorinated and also a shortage occurred during the August Bank Holiday period. As the overchlorination had been pointed out to the Company and the shortage of supply during droughts had occurred on previous occasions and the Littlestone Water Company did not appear to be taking any proper steps to improve these conditions, you, together with the neighbouring councils of New Romney and Romney Marsh, wrote to the Minister of Health asking him to send down an Engineer Inspector to investigate the complaints, and on 11th August, Mr. J. Gardner, M.Inst.C.E., of the Ministry came to New Romney and held an informal enquiry at the Town Hall, where a number of consumers attended and made their complaints to the Inspector and it was pointed out to him that we were dissatisfied with the way the process of chlorination was being carried out and that we did not consider the company had taken all the steps necessary to look for more water which we believed could be found in the beach. Afterwards the Inspector visited the Company's wells, and pumping stations. Since this there has been an improvement in the process of chlorination although two samples of water have shewn over-chlorination in a small degree.

The Company has sunk three extra wells and, we are given to understand, have obtained water which in their opinion will be sufficient for the future requiremeuts of their statutory area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

There has been no alteration in the Drainage and disposal of Sewage during the year.

The council are considering the adoption of New Building Bye-Laws and it is hoped to bring them into force before 1st July next.

HOUSING.

Housing conditions remain the same.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified during the year :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2

The case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I would like to thank the Clerk for his assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARNOLD McMILLAN.

5th June, 1939

URBAN DISTRICT OF LYDD, 1938.

	No. in District	No. of visits in 1938	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	1	5	1	1
Dairies and Cowsheds	14	40	2	2
Slaughter Houses—Registered	2	170	—	—
Licensed.....	0			
Other Food Preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	5	12	nil	—
Offensive Trades ..	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses let in Lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	4	16	1	1
Workshops	8	8	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	6	6	—	—

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the above tabulation):

Overcrowding	nil	Miscellaneous	30
Keeping of Animals	nil	Refuse Receptacles	5
Hop Pickers' Camps	nil	Tents, Vans and Sheds	3
Sanitary Accommodation—		Smoke Nuisances	nil
(i) Insufficient	—	Yard Paving	nil
(ii) Defective	4	Dampness	10
Drainage (i) Re-constructed	—	Roofs & Rain Water Pipes	10
(ii) Repaired	16	Floors	3
(iii) Cleansed	1	Walls and Ceilings	6
Cesspools (i) Abolished	nil	Windows and Ventilation...	3
(ii) Repaired	—	Baths, lavatory basins and	
Offensive Accumulations	2	sinks	2
		Water Supplies	nil

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspector during year 708

Approximate number of separate *premises* in the area 912

Approximate number of such *premises* at the end of the year,
containing each type of sanitary convenience as under—

W.C's into drainage system...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
W.C's into cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	616
W.C's into septic tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Earth Closets or privvy middens...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Number of premises not connected to public water supply...	141

[illegible]

Number of houses, etc., disinfected	I
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Batches of clothing and bedding 1

[illegible]

Amount of food condemned during the year 158 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

					Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	...	...	...	...	43	15	2	240	170
Number Inspected	...	...	...	...	43	15	2	240	170
All diseases except Tuberculosis:									
Whole carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	.83	—
Tuberculosis only :									
Whole carsases condemned	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	4	8	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	9.3	53.3	—	—	2.94

HOUSING.

1 INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES :

- 1—Total number of dwelling houses *inspected* for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts... .. 106
Number of inspections made for that purpose 242
- 2—Number of dwelling houses included under the preceding heading, which were *inspected* and *recorded* under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 20
Number of inspections made for that purpose 20
- 3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation nil
- 4—Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 26

2 REMEDY OF DEFECTS *without* SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE :

- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of *informal* action by the Local Authority or its Officers 3

3 ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- 1—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs nil
- 2—Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—
 - a—By Owners nil
 - b—By Local Authority in default of Owners nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—			
1—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil		
2—Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—			
<i>a</i> —By Owners	nil		
<i>b</i> —By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	nil		
C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—			
1—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil		
2—Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil		
D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—			
1—Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil		
2—Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil		
4 HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV :			
Overcrowding	nil		
Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority	32		
Number of New Houses built during 1938—			
<i>a</i> —By the Local Authority... ..	nil		
<i>b</i> —By other bodies or persons	30		
Shortage of Housing accommodation for Working Classes—			
Houses required. <i>a</i> —To replace unsatisfactory property ...	nil		
<i>b</i> —To provide additional accommodation	nil		

JOHN TOPHAM,
Sanitary Inspector.

TOWN HALL,
HIGH STREET, LYDD.

